PROJECT NUMBER : 1806
PROJECT TITLE : New Tobacco Processes
PROJECT LEADER : T. C. Holland
PERIOD COVERED : July, 1991

I. PRIMARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A. **Objective:** Identify process and equipment modifications to provide a highly flexible primary operation capable of producing filler with significantly improved filling power at a lower operating cost. Characterize the existing primary process to establish baseline thermal history, chemical changes, and flavor reactions.

B. **Status:** Efforts are underway to evaluate the concepts associated with the New Primary Process. Testing has been initiated to measure the physical gains and subjective impacts of processing individual tobacco components (bright, burley, oriental, reconstituted) separately through the flavoring, cutting, and drying operations.

New Process/Product Development - Cigarette models are being made from filler containing Bright components that were processed independently and added back to a filler blend. The Bright component was processed under various scenarios to obtain an initial measure of the impact of cut width, Hauni tunnel treatment, and method of casing on the subjective and physical responses.

New Process Modelling - Witness software has been chosen for modelling the operational aspects of the Primary process. AT&T has been requested to submit a proposal to develop a software simulation of the existing Primary and the New Primary processes.

Thermal Treatment - Testing to establish the subjective and chemical responses to thermal treatment in the Burley dryer is in progress. The initial testing involving a range of drying conditions has been completed, including the filler analyticals, smoke analyticals, and subjective measures. Correlation studies will be completed in August.

Steam Tunnel Evaluation - The Sagemuller steam tunnel has been installed in the Semiworks prior to the Burley spray cylinder. Testing to demonstrate casing uniformity gains are in progress. Cigarettes have been submitted for subjective qualification. The project is on schedule to generate a recommendation by October 1991 to support an implementation decision at Cabarrus for incorporating steam tunnels prior to casing cylinders.

Cut Filler Delivery Program - Installation of the Rothmans Flow Thru Hopper in D Pilot Plant is 80% complete. The unit will be checked out and evaluated in a stand alone operation prior to installation on a Semiworks maker for product evaluation.

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C. Plans: Testing to determine the potential physical gains and subjective impacts associated with separate component processing will continue. The burley, oriental, and reconstituted components will be evaluated along the same procedure as for Bright. Blending trials are scheduled for August to establish the protocol required for blending individual cut filler components. Hauni tunnel trials to establish the optimum process conditions for each individual component are also planned to commence in August.

The schedule for developing a model of both the existing and New Primary process will be established in August.

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